

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20, cancels claims 1, 8 and 11 and leaves claims 3, 6, 7, 13, 16 and 17. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-20.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that Figs. 7, 9 and 10 should be designed by a legend "Prior Art". Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Correction adding the legend "Prior Art" to Figs. 7, 9 and 10. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action and claims 1, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cugnini (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,070 B1) in view of Sollenberger (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,969). As indicated above, claims 1, 8 and 11 were canceled. Therefore, the objection to claim 1 and the rejections of claims 1, 8 and 11 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objection and rejections is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1, 8 and 11 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1, 8 and 11 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record. The cancellation of claims 1, 8 and 11 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 1, 8 and 11 in a continuing application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 5 of the Office Action that claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 12-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amendments were made to claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 to place them in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 12-20 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 12-20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.40833X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120